

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Camp O-3 ('Monopol') - Compulsory Labor Camp in
Warsaw

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NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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LOCATION

1. "The compulsory labor camp OP-3 (known popularly as 'Monopol' because it is located in the pre-World War II state tobacco monopoly buildings in Warsaw) is still in operation. It is located in the Muranow district, which is now under reconstruction as a main residential area. The following information dates through 1953.
2. "The mail address for Camp OP-3 is 43 Anielewicz Street (formerly Pawia Street), Warsaw. The street received its new name after World War II in memory of the leader of the famous Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Administration

3. "The camp is commanded Lt. /fnu/ Urbaniak and his deputy, the name of the latter; his nickname is 'Blondynek'. Both these men are renowned for their cruelty.

Inmates

4. "The 'Monopol' compulsory labor camp is a sort of transit camp. The inmates are sent to 'Monopol' from various Polish prisons, the majority of them to finish out their sentences.
5. "There is also a small group of men with life sentences, many of them engineers and construction experts. They are held in community cells, apart from the other cells on the ground floor of the building. They are primarily used to work on plans for the rebuilding of Warsaw. It is said that they receive sketches and designs from outside sources on which they must elaborate the technical details. This work is performed in a special drafting office.

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6. "The regular labor camp inmates are split up in groups at 'Monopol' to be sent to another compulsory labor camp or to work on various state construction projects. During 1952-53 the number of inmates varied from 2,500 to 3,000 men. Some hundreds of these men are employed in the camp itself, on the production of pre-fabricated construction parts from cement and with pulverizing brick rubble. Out of this material special construction-plates and tube bricks (bricks with holes) are produced for use all over Warsaw in the reconstruction project. Compulsory work in the camp is done in two shifts. The raw materials are brought to the 'Monopol' Camp by a special normal-gauge railway side line and are carried to the various construction tables by a narrow-gauge railway-line within the camp.
7. "The Radocha Camp resembles the 'Monopol' Camp in that it is a kind of transit and distribution camp for an industry. The Radocha Camp operates as a central distribution point for compulsory labor camp inmates who are destined to work in coal mines.
8. "Discipline in the 'Monopol' Camp is strenuous. The men are always ordered by camp regulations to run, not to walk, along the pattern of the World War II German concentration camps.

Buildings

9. "The inmates are housed in the four-story, pre-World War II building of the tobacco monopoly. The building has been remodelled. The men are grouped in community cells, mostly 30 men to one cell. The cells are on the upper floors. On the ground-floor, besides the community cells for the life sentences, are the offices of the labor camp administration and the UB control section.
10. "A small building close to the main building houses the inmates who work outside the camp.
11. "There is another small building with shower installations.
12. "A sports field is available. It is rarely used because the inmates have to work nearly every Sunday. Only the few inmates who work over-norms are entitled to a few hours off on Sunday, when their families are allowed to visit them in a special building.

Production

13. "Production norms are high: up to 800 concrete-plates per day for a team of five men. As one plate with its form, a so-called Doms plate, weighs more than 80 kgs, this norm is immense. Equipment on auxiliary machines is kept to a minimum.

Pay

14. "As in other compulsory labor camps the inmates of 'Monopol' receive wages. Fifty per cent of the amount due is taken by the state for 'maintenance' costs; 25% is brought forward into a blocked account; and only the remaining 25% is left to the inmates, not in cash but in the form of a canteen account.

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This was just barely enough to buy some cigarettes and bread and margarine for additional food; the camp food was very poor.

16. "The camp food consisted mainly of grouts, cooked either as a soup or a puree, and of codfish. The individual bread ration, dark bread was only 500 g. Additionally every inmate received 10 g sugar per day. [REDACTED]

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remember about five times during my period of imprisonment having a dish with pieces of meat.

Punishments

17. "The camp has two kinds of disciplinary punishments. One, to be sent to Cell No. 11, a community cell where the inmates have to stay mostly for seven nights. The cell has no beds; the men must sleep on the concrete floor with only one blanket as cover. Although they work during the day they are deprived their evening-meal when under punishment. The severer punishment is the 'karzer'. The 'karzer' is in the cellar under the prison yard. It has completely dark single cells. [redacted] and night in the 'karzer'; the longest punishment period there is seven days, with only water and 300 grams of bread.
18. "More serious punishment cases are sent to the nearby Gesiowka Prison for a short term, or to one of the hardest Polish prisons in Strzelce Opolskie (German: Gross-Strelitz). Strzelce Opolskie has two prisons. One is the Izolacyjne (Isolation Prison) where the inmates sit in single cells, completely isolated from the world. The second is the Centralne (Central Prison), to which a compulsory labor camp is attached. The inmates of this camp work in a stone quarry.

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Rumored Future Changes

19. "According to hearsay, the 'Monopol' compulsory labor camp and the adjoining CKWS compulsory labor camp, which is a part of the Gesiowka Prison, will be shortly [spring 1954] transferred from the Muranow district to another locality. The ground on which the camp is located will be needed in 1954 under the construction project for this residential district. The inmates, according to the rumor, will be transferred to a new compulsory labor camp in Sluzewiec, a southern suburb of Warsaw, where a new camp was organized in 1953. Aside from their labor on various construction projects in the Sluzewiec industrial district, the inmates of the new camp have erected large barracks to house around 12,000 inmates. After its completion this will be the main compulsory labor camp in Warsaw. To it will come inmates from 'Monopol' and the CKWS-Gesiowka camp, and inmates from other smaller Warsaw compulsory camps.
20. "Late rumors also state that the recently introduced practice of sending [prisoners] to work together with free workers will be abolished. The contact through such mixture has enabled some inmates to escape. Free workers have also acted as intermediaries for several matters."

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